

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 were pending in the application. Claims 1-38 have been withdrawn. Claims 42-44, 48-50 and 53-57 are canceled. Claims 39-41, 45-47 and 51-52 stand rejected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 39, 41 and 45-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Holcomb (U.S. Pat. No. 6,042,531). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 39 is amended to recite a “compound magnet having a front face and comprising a plurality of segments, the segments each magnetized to provide the maximum magnetic field in a selected direction at the same selected operating point spaced from the front face of the magnet.”

Referring to independent claim 41, the claim is amended to recite “...the segments each magnetized to provide substantially the maximum magnetic field in a selected direction at the same operating point spaced from the front face...”.

Holcomb '531 discloses a magnetic flux generator 12 having four electromagnetic heads 18, 20, 22 and 24. Heads 18 and 22 have polarity opposite to the polarity of heads 20 and 24 and thus generate magnetic flux fields opposite those generated by heads 20 and 24 (FIG. 2 and 7; col. 16, lines 1-6). The fields have four separate maxima, two positive and two negative (FIG. 7). The four heads 18, 20, 22 and 24 apparently do not provide a maximum magnetic field at the same operating point spaced from the generator 12. Holcomb '531 does not teach the recitations of amended

claim 39 or the recitations of amended claim 41. Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended claim 39, claim 40 dependent on claim 39, and amended claim 41 should be allowed.

With reference to independent claim 45, the claim is amended to recite “...an at least approximately curved back face facing away from the operating point, the back face generally conforming to a constant contribution surface of the magnetic field in the selected direction.” As previously discussed above, Holcomb '531 discloses a magnetic flux generator 12 having four electromagnetic heads 18, 20, 22 and 24. Each of the heads includes a conducting wire 26 wound around a cast iron core 28 (FIG. 3; col. 15, lines 20-22). Holcomb does not teach or suggest “...an at least approximately curved back face facing away from the operating point, the back face generally conforming to a constant contribution surface of the magnetic field in the selected direction.” Further, the recitations of claim 45 are not inherent in the generator of Holcomb '531. Applicants accordingly submit that amended claim 45, and claims 46, 47, 51 and 52 dependent on claim 45, should be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 40, and 51-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holcomb (U.S. Pat. No. 6,042,531) in view of Holcomb (U.S. Pat. No. 5,312,321). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Referring to claim 40 (dependent on claim 39) and as previously discussed with reference to claim 39, the four heads 18, 20, 22 and 24 of the generator of Holcomb '531 apparently do not provide a maximum magnetic field at the same operating point

spaced from the generator 12. Holcomb '531 does not teach the recitations of amended claim 39, upon which claim 40 is dependent. Accordingly, claim 40 should be allowed.

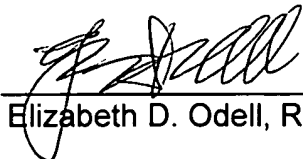
Referring to claims 51 and 52 (dependent on claim 45) and as previously discussed with reference to claim 45, Holcomb does not teach or suggest "...an at least approximately curved back face facing away from the operating point, the back face generally conforming to a constant contribution surface of the magnetic field in the selected direction" as recited in claim 45. Accordingly, claims 51 and 52 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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